

Appl. No. 10/630,337
Amdt. Dated January 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

Submitted herewith are proposed amendments to the drawings for the Examiner's review and approval. These proposed drawing amendments add markings that depict the filter material in inserts 34.

The attached sheet labeled "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" includes Figs. 1-3 of which Figs. 1-3 have been amended to include markings that depict the filter material in inserts 34 and 36.

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• • R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S • •

The Official Action of October 20, 2005 has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the changes presented herein for the application, considered together with the following remarks, are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

By the present amendment the limitations of dependent claim 10 have been incorporated into independent claim 1.

In addition, the limitations of dependent claim 4 regarding the apertures of the filter plates have been incorporated into each of claims 2 and 3.

Dependent claims 4 and 10 have been canceled.

Claims 7 and 11 have been changed to depend on claims 5 and 1, respectively.

Other changes to the claims merely correct matters of form.

Entry of the changes to the claims is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a). Under this objection the Examiner stated that the drawings do not show the filter material.

In response to the object to the drawings, applicants are submitting annotated drawings for the Examiner's review and approval which include markings that illustrate the filter material in inserts 34 and 36.

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Upon review and approval of the drawing amendments, applicants will submit formal substitute drawings.

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-16 are pending in this application.

Claim 4 was objected to by the Examiner under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being of improper form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

In response to the objection to claim 4, applicants have canceled claim 4 and incorporated the limitations of claim 4 into claims 2 and 3.

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Under this rejection the Examiner has expressed concerns that "the filter plates recited in claims 2 and 3 must include apertures of some type to allow the water to flow through them."

In response to this rejection, claims 2 and 3 have each been amended to include the recitation of the apertures that was previously recited in claim 4.

It is believed that the changes to claims 2 and 3 address and overcome the outstanding rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 1, 5-9 and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,190,528 to Li et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,601,808 to Eumann et al.

On page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to claim 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has otherwise indicated that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 10 was originally dependent directly on independent claim 1.

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By the present amendment, the limitations of claim 10 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. The resulting amended claim 1 presents the limitations of claim 10 in independent form.

It is thus submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art as indicated by the Examiner. Also, claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11-16 which depend from claim 1 are allowable, including claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11-16.

As discussed in applicants' specification, the alkene polymer recited in claim 1 provides multiple holed material layers in which hollow molecule channels cross together to make small channels having a layout that filters out ion exchange resin and permits water to flow through. Such multiple holed material layers can be made from alkene high polymer through sintering, extruding, melting, frothing or felting. Moreover, as disclosed, it is within the scope of the invention to use other materials that provide the same benefits.

Based upon the amendments to the claims, the outstanding prior art rejection of claims 1, 5-9 and 11-16 is deemed moot and no comments concerning the prior art references are deemed necessary in the present response.

It is submitted that the claims, as now amended, and the discussion contained herein clearly show that the claimed invention is novel and neither anticipated nor obvious over the teachings of the prior art and the outstanding rejection of the claims should hence be withdrawn.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of the claims and an early allowance of the claims is believed to be in order.

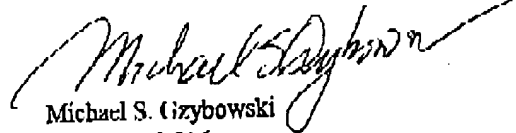
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It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,


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